



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re patent application of:

BRUNELOT et al.

Serial No. 09/856,684

Group Art Unit: 1754

Filed: May 24, 2001

Examiner: P. Lish

For: **METHOD AND DEVICE FOR INCINERATION AND VITRIFICATION OF
WASTE, IN PARTICULAR RADIOACTIVE WASTE**

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Reasons for Allowance attached to the Notices of Allowance, having a mailing date of June 28, 2004. Applicants offer the following comments in response to the Examiner's statements.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that the presently pending claims have been allowed, in part for the following reasons:

It is seen that regarding the prior art to Floyd et al., there is no teaching or suggestion that the injection means for the oxygen-containing gas enter through the bottom of the reactor. Additionally, it is held by the applicant that the essential characteristics of the injection means, in order for it to prevent a plug of glass from forming upon cessation of oxygen-containing gas flow, are 1) the means are disposed vertically through the bottom (of the bottom plate) of the reactor and 2) the means are provided with an opening disposed 90° to the vertical axis. See specification, page 7, lines 18-22. The claims, which require this injection means, are thus limited as such.

Accordingly, applicants agree with the Examiner that the

previously rejected claims, namely present claims 9, 11-12, 14, and 15, are patentable over the references of record since these claims require that the injection means "are introduced into the bottom portion of said reactor beneath the surface of said bath of molten glass".

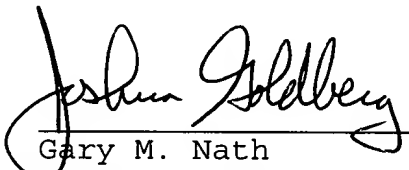
If the Examiner has any comments to the foregoing, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney to discuss these comments as appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

NATH & ASSOCIATES PLLC

Date: September 16, 2004
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MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE
Atty. Docket No. 24648

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In re Application of

Notice of Allowance: 06/28/04

BRUNELOT et al.

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WASTE, IN PARTICULAR RADIOACTIVE WASTE

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith for filing in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is the following:

- (1) Transmittal Letter;
- (2) Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal;
- (3) Comments on Reasons for Allowance;
- (4) Check No. 21733 \$ 1,330.00 for Issue Fee as a large entity;
- (5) Check No. 21734 \$ 30.00 for Advance Order Copies.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any excess to Deposit Account No. 14-0112.

Respectfully submitted,

NATH & ASSOCIATES PLLC

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Date: September 16, 2004

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